(a) whether Allopathic chemist shops are opened under Registration of Allopathic Pharmacists;

(b) whether Ayurvedic and Allopathic medicines are sold at these pharmacist shops;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Ayurvedic and Allopathic medicines are quiet different; and

(e) if so, whether Government proposes to take action to ensure that Ayurvedic medicines should be sold through chemist shops that are opened under registration of Ayurvedic Pharmacists exclusively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, no sale licence is required for sale of Ayurvedic medicines under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules made thereunder.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

**Electro homoeopathy doctors**

1341. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that quacks are rampant in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for not granting permission to the pharmacist, staff nurses having knowledge of anatomy, physiology and medicines under Electro Homoeopathy system to do practice for physical treatment; and

(c) whether Government proposes to allow the said paramedical staff to do the above mentioned practice, keeping in view the efficacy of medicines of the Electro-Homoeopathic system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Only the Medical practitioners, who are registered under provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, are eligible to practice medicine in the respective system of medicine governed by these Acts. The provisions exist in these Acts to take action against unqualified/unregistered practitioners of medicine. The State Medical Councils who grant registration to practitioners take action where called for against quacks. Any person who acts in contravention of the provisions can be punished with imprisonment and fine under respective Acts.

**Financial support to national pharmacovigilance programme**

1342. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funding support by the World Bank to National Pharmacovigilance Programme (NPP) has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decision taken by the World Bank;

(c) whether Government proposes to fiscally support this drug safety programme in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Pharmacovigilance Programme was funded by World Bank assisted Capacity Building Project and the tenure of the project is over.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The programme may be continued with appropriate funding through domestic annual budgetary exercise.

(e) Does not arise.

**Homosexuality and moral values**

1343. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is reconsidering its stand on homosexuality or gay sex; and

(b) if so, what is the logic behind it in the changing times affecting the moral values?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) This matter is pending with the High Court of Delhi.

**Medical care of senior citizens**

1344. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of senior citizens living in the country as on date; State-wise;

(b) whether medical facilities being provided to them are not conforming to those of other countries;

(c) if so, the reasons for shortage of such facilities;

(d) whether any plan has been initiated or proposed to provide medical and health facilities to senior citizens during last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The number of elderly citizens living in the country as per census 2001 is given in the Statement. While in most of the western and developed countries elderly citizens are normally covered under various insurance schemes, in India, the facilities to the aged persons are